

Title: The Third Age of The Dreaming III

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Valdyr was suddenly jerked out of the gaze he had been holding with the mysterious elf when he realized that there were four people approaching from other sides, comming out of the forest. He advanced towards the elf, pretending that he did not hear the people approaching in the woods.

"Why have you stopped me, elf?" demanded Valdyr.

"You, stranger, have started to concern my Master, Ari. He says that the magi have prophesized about you. He says that you must be destroyed."

As the elf was talking, Erurie came to, but she knew that it must remain a secret, even from Valdyr. Valdyr went quickly over to the clearing's edge, set Erurie down and drew his broadsword. He knew this man was honorable by the way he acted. He would not kill innocents, quite unlike his Master.

He stepped into the clearing and the men in the bushes jumped out. The odds where now five to one. He charged at the man on his left. The man sidestepped. The men

began to encircle Valdyr, using a heavily wooded area to help them. Valdyr then noticed that Erurie was up and that she was casting a spell, and thus determined that he must hold their attention for as long as he could. He thrusted and parried, and basically was a general nuisance.

She stood, the energy gathered, her hair was in a swirl above her head. One of the thugs looked back, and saw that the unconscious girl was no longer unconscious and she was casting a spell. He opened up his mouth to alert the leader, but a dragon came down from upon him, and swept and two others, to never be seen again.

Erurie collapsed from the sheer mental drain had put on her. Valdyr knew that he was alone for the duration of this battle.

He played the defensive, blocking blows, parrying, getting a short thrust in here and there. He knew that they would eventually tire him out, then he would be theirs. He slipped to the left and swung his broadsword at the only ambusher left besides the captain. The sword found it's mark and bit deep into the man's side causing a scream of pain from the man. He continued to stay up, but it would not be long before he passed out due to lack

of blood.

While Valdyr was making his desperate attempt to rid himself of one of the attackers, the big elf took advantage of his open side and swung.